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XXXIX.—*Notes on the Birds of the Pyrenees.*

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IN publishing these observations on the ornithology of the Pyrenees, I do not pretend to have explored the whole of that great mountain-chain, or even to have worked up any district except the western one. To have done this, even imperfectly, it would have been necessary to spend at least three springs and summers in various portions of the chain; and to obtain the best results it is absolutely necessary that the naturalist should make the Spanish side his principal collecting-ground, a course which would involve considerable hardship. As regards the French side, where all reasonable comforts can be obtained, the word "Pyrenees," in the tourist sense of the word, means the "show-district," bounded by Eaux-Chaudes, Eaux-Bonnes, and Gabas on the west, and by Luchon and Venasque on the east—a mountain-mass partially pierced by narrow gorges and containing the most lofty summits, unfavourable therefore, on the whole, to bird-life. I have visited this district, but never having been able to remain there later than the month of May, my experiences are limited. In that portion of the eastern

district which lies between Venasque and Prats de Molló I have not yet been ; but I know something of the Catalan portion on both sides of the frontier, owing to an autumn visit to Amélie-les-Bains and excursions round Mont Canigou ; also to many conversations with Dr. Alfred Bardou, of Fontainebleau, whom I met there, and his collectors. He was an agreeable, although somewhat eccentric, companion, whose delight was to wander about the mountains, living with the peasantry, doctoring them gratis, and collecting eggs. He would never allow a gun to be taken out with him, and instant dismissal from his employ would have followed the destruction of any bird from the nest, whether for identification or any other reason. To him I am indebted for some thoroughly trustworthy information about many of the Pyrenean birds ; but, unfortunately, nothing would induce him to publish his experiences. It would be interesting to know what has become of his collection of eggs, which must have been a very fine one, and his notes, if any. Every thing was sold at his death ; but I can learn no particulars, for to amateur naturalists in France he seems to have been quite unknown. At Perpignan, also, I was acquainted with the late Dr. Louis Companyó, who published in 1863 his '*Histoire naturelle des Pyrénées-Orientales*,' containing many interesting details about birds. He was a fine old man, who had been an army surgeon during the Peninsular war, over eighty years of age at the time that I knew him, but still vigorous, and delighted to talk over his recollections of Spain. His catalogue is useful to any one having some previous knowledge of the country and its fauna ; but to those at a distance it is a double-edged tool, for, with increasing age, the venerable doctor got rather confused about his scientific names. Still, he was a field-naturalist, and by their Catalan names he knew his feathered friends and their habits well enough. As regards the district of which Bagnères-de-Bigorre forms the centre, it has been explored better than any other by a working naturalist, the late M. Philippe, whose widow and daughters still prepare a few birds brought in by the guides and isard-hunters. Thanks

to the courtesy of the Director of the College of Oloron, where what remains of Philippe's collection is still to be seen, I possess a copy of his extremely rare 'Ornithologie Pyrénéenne,' published in 1873, after his death, from his notes, by M. Cazes. This catalogue would be exceedingly interesting, but for the fact that the editor has incorporated a number of passages which, from the manner in which they are inserted in the original MS., are evidently either hearsay or mere extracts from other writers, for guidance and comparison. It is only by being able to separate these that the work becomes of value; but of the conscientiousness of the writer there can be no doubt.

The district with which I am best acquainted is that lower and comparatively wooded portion which lies between the Val d'Aspe and the sea. During two winters and early springs passed at St. Jean-de-Luz I made many excursions, and have traversed the intervening ridges in all directions down to Pamplona, to reach which the main chain has to be crossed. Comparatively few people appear to be aware that it is not the main chain, but a mere spur of the Pyrenees, which is seen by the traveller on his left as he approaches the frontier at the Bidassoa. The main line of the Pyrenees is crossed far in Spanish territory, about Zumárraga, and continues westward under the name of the Cantabrian range; but about the latter portion I have nothing to say at present. As regards the Basque country and Navarre, the passes do not exceed 5000 feet in height, and most of their lower slopes are clothed with chestnut, beech, and oak. In the great forest of Iraty there are, however, many square miles of superb firs; but, like most large forests, it is not rich in species of birds. Unfortunately, it is practically impossible for any one residing at St. Jean-de-Luz to carry a gun through the small mountain-passes on the immediate frontier, owing to the sharp look-out kept for Carlists. That this precaution is by no means unnecessary, is shown by the recent raid made through the Valcarlos (which is the lower part of the Roncesvalles pass) to Orbaiceta; that it is undesirable to expose one's self to suspicion, is shown by the marvellous

promptitude with which the Carlist invaders were placed in that condition which, according to Cromwell, "hath no fellow!" In the greater part of Spain there is no difficulty whatever about a gun, but just on the frontier it is different. And to have given my proper address at St. Jean-de-Luz would at any time have insured the attention of the authorities, for that place was the hot-bed of Carlist plots and the watch-point of the faction.

So much for my own experiences, which are merely set down in order that my readers may know how far I have been, and whence my sources of information are derived. But to supplement my defective knowledge of the French side, there is a work entitled '*Catalogue raisonné des Oiseaux observés dans les Pyrénées françaises et les régions limitrophes*,' by M. Adrien Lacroix, of Toulouse, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of making a few years ago, when I was enabled to inspect his collection of specimens obtained in the Pyrenees and the neighbourhood. At his residence, in the sunny plains of Gascony, M. Lacroix has collected information respecting the birds obtained or observed in the Departments of Haute-Garonne, Aude, Ariège, Gers, Hérault, Haute-Pyrénées, Tarn, Tarn-et-Garonne, and Pyrénées-Orientales, the result being a list of about 350 species, many of them of considerable interest. M. Lacroix has made various excursions into the mountains, and can by no means be considered a mere cabinet naturalist; but still there are some points upon which it would be satisfactory to have corroborative details. It is not my intention to swell the list by making a complete catalogue of the species which are, or ought to be, found in the Pyrenees; therefore, with the exception of a few rarities, such as Pallas's Sand-Grouse, only those are set down which I have myself seen alive or recently killed, and many species are excluded which undoubtedly occur, but which I do not find noted in my memoranda.

1. *Turdus viscivorus*, Linn.

The Missel-Thrush is common and resident. I observed

it nesting in Navarre, at an elevation of 3000 feet, on the 11th of April.

2. *TURDUS MUSICUS*, Linn.

The Song-Thrush is abundant on its migration in February and March, and I have seen eggs taken in the Basque Provinces; but my impression is that only a few remain to breed.

3. *TURDUS ILIACUS*, Linn.

The Redwing was numerous in March about St. Jean-de-Luz.

4. *TURDUS PILARIS*, Linn.

The Fieldfare is of rare or irregular occurrence in the western districts, where I only saw it once; more abundant on passage towards the centre. Philippe and others assert that a few pairs remain to breed in the higher woods.

In the Museum at Bayonne there is an example of White's Thrush, *Oreocincla varia*, shot in the district in 1871.

5. *TURDUS MERULA*, Linn.

The Blackbird is a resident species, its numbers being augmented during migration.

6. *TURDUS TORQUATUS*, Linn.

The Ring-Ouzel was abundant in March about Argelès, where it is known as the "Pic Mars." I also saw it and heard it near Roncesvalles in April, so it was doubtless breeding there.

7. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS* (Linn.).

The Rock-Thrush is tolerably common in the mountains from April to September, and nests close to Bagnères-de-Bigorre, where I observed it early in May 1879.

8. *MONTICOLA CYANUS* (Linn.).

The Blue Rock-Thrush was observed by me daily in the warm dry Catalonian Pyrenees in November 1876, so that it is probably resident there. In the colder districts it arrives in April, and in the Basque Provinces I did not see it at all.

9. *CINCLUS AQUATICUS*, Bechst.

The Dipper is common on all the mountain-streams. A skin which I brought back is referable to the form named *C. albicollis*.

10. *SAXICOLA ŒNANTHE* (Linn.).

The Common Wheatear arrived at St. Jean-de-Luz from the south on the 25th of March.

11. *SAXICOLA ALBICOLLIS*, Vieill.

Several separate parties of the Black-eared Chat arrived at the same time with the preceding.

12. *SAXICOLA LEUCURA*.

The Black Chat was observed by me daily above Amélieles-Bains, in the Eastern Pyrenees, in November 1876; but until then Lacroix was not aware of its existence in any part of the range.

13. *PRATINCOLA RUBETRA* (Linn.).

The Whinchat was seen in Navarre in April.

14. *PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA* (Linn.).

The Stonechat is common and resident.

15. *RUTICILLA PHŒNICURUS* (Linn.).

The first male Redstart was observed at St. Jean-de-Luz on the 18th of March.

16. *RUTICILLA TITYS* (Scop.).

The Black Redstart was tolerably common during the winter about ruins, and even on the rocks by the sea-shore at St. Jean-de-Luz; but by April nearly all the birds seemed to have retired to the mountains, where I saw many.

17. *CYANECULA WOLFI*, C. L. Brehm.

I shot a White-spotted Bluethroat near St. Jean-de-Luz on the 16th of April, but it probably arrives rather earlier.

18. *ERITHACUS RUBECULA* (Linn.).

The Redbreast is tolerably common and resident.

19. *DAULIAS LUSCINIA* (Linn.).

The first Nightingale was observed near St. Jean-de-Luz on the 8th of April.

20. *SYLVIA RUFA* (Bodd.).

The Whitethroat's arrival at St. Jean-de-Luz was first noticed on the 4th of April. The Lesser Whitethroat (*S. curruca*) was not observed by me, and in the Basque Provinces I believe it is very rare on migration.

21. *SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA* (Gm.).

The Sardinian Warbler seems to be a resident in the lower districts; I saw it daily near Amélie-les-Bains in November.

22. *SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA* (Linn.).

The Blackcap was observed at St. Jean-de-Luz on and subsequently to the 7th of March.

23. *MELIZOPHILUS UNDATUS* (Bodd.).

The Dartford Warbler is tolerably common and resident on the gorse-covered hills of the Basque Provinces; I also saw it in the Eastern Pyrenees in November.

24. *REGULUS CRISTATUS*, Koch.

25. *REGULUS IGNICAPILLUS* (C. L. Brehm).

Both the Goldcrest and the Fire-crest were frequently observed in winter and early spring near St. Jean-de-Luz. The former species was exceedingly tame, seeking food on the gorse regardless of the proximity of the observer. The Fire-crests often came quite close; but they seemed much more restless, and, instead of working steadily round the same bush, they would shoot off rapidly to another after a very short stay.

26. *PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA* (Vieill.).

27. *PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS* (Linn.).

Some Chiffchaffs were to be seen at St. Jean-de-Luz throughout the winter; others arrived in March. The Willow-Wren was first noticed on the 8th of that month. My departure for the mountains prevented any observations upon other Warblers.

28. *ACCENTOR COLLARIS* (Scop.).

The Alpine Accentor was only seen by me on the Higher Pyrenees in March and May; never in the Basque and Navarrese districts.

29. *ACCENTOR MODULARIS* (Linn.).

The Hedge-Sparrow appears to be resident on the lower grounds, but it is not numerous.

30. *ACREDULA IRBYI*.

This form of Long-tailed Tit was several times observed on the tall poplars along the highroad from Bayonne to Spain, and also in the Argelès valley.

31. *PARUS MAJOR*, Linn.32. *PARUS ATER*, Linn.33. *PARUS CÆRULEUS*, Linn.

The Great, Blue, and Coal Tits were frequently observed, the latter being especially abundant in the middle belt of forests in company with the Crested Tits.

34. *PARUS PALUSTRIS*, Linn.

The Marsh-Tit appeared to be rather rare, and confined to the lower grounds by the Nivelles and neighbouring streams.

35. *LOPHOPHANES CRISTATUS* (Linn.).

A few Crested Tits were always to be seen in the woods round St. Jean-de-Luz, but in the great forest of Iraty and the woods of the Higher Pyrenees this species was more numerous than all the others together.

36. *SITTA CÆSIA*, Wolf.

The Common Nuthatch is abundant and resident in the chestnut and beech woods, where its loud *tui-tui-tui* might frequently be heard.

37. *CERTHIA FAMILIARIS*, Linn.

The Common Creeper is resident.

38. *TICHODROMA MURARIA* (Linn.).

The Wall-Creeper, in spite of the brilliant crimson of its wings, is a species which may easily be overlooked on the rocky precipices which form the sides of the deep gorges. Mr. Seeböhm told me that he had observed it about Pierrefitte in March 1882; but I was not so fortunate as regards that locality. In the arid ravines of the Eastern Pyrenees, where the sun still strikes fiercely in November, I have seen

it several times with extended wings basking like a butterfly ; but it leaves the higher mountains in September, returning in March. As bearing upon its two recorded visits to England (which, however, in spite of their authorities, have not obtained sufficient credence to procure its admission to the B. O. U. List of British birds), I may remark that four or five examples have been obtained at Nantes, in Lower Brittany, several of them on the walls of the old Château, within a few yards of the noise and bustle of crowded quays and steam tramways.

39. *TROGLODYTES PARVULUS*, Koch.

The Common Wren is a familiar resident.

40. *MOTACILLA ALBA*, Linn.

41. *MOTACILLA LUGUBRIS*, Temm.

Both the White and the Pied Wagtails were observed at St. Jean-de-Luz from December to the end of March, after which they disappeared. Our bird was in full black plumage in December, and was frequently to be seen strutting about the road in proximity to its longer-tailed congener, the White Wagtail, which was also in full plumage. Judging from the gradations of colour observed in fully adult specimens, it is my impression that the two species interbreed ; but the birds persistently frequented washing-places and high-roads, where it was impossible to shoot, so that I did not obtain a specimen. Their sudden departure took me by surprise, for I had made up my mind to secure a Pied and a White Wagtail which had apparently been paired for at least a fortnight. There was a considerable arrival of Pied Wagtails early in March.

42. *MOTACILLA MELANOPE*, Pall.

The Grey Wagtail is of general distribution, not merely on the streams and brooks, but also on the flat land at the foot of the mountains. At the baths of Dax, by the Adour, in the Landes, a pair frequented the courtyard of the hotel, sometimes entering the open windows of the corridors in search of flies with the utmost familiarity.

43. *MOTACILLA FLAVA*, Linn.

44. *MOTACILLA ALBA*, Bp.

From the 28th January onwards the Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail was tolerably common among the cattle on the pastures about St. Jean-de-Luz. The Yellow Wagtail was first observed on the 10th of April by the banks of the Iraty river, in close attendance on some grazing ponies.

45. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS* (Linn.).

46. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS* (Linn.).

The Meadow-Pipit was very common in winter and spring. The Trec-Pipit was obtained on and after the 12th February.

47. *ANTHUS SPIPOLETTA* (Linn.).

The Water-Pipit was occasionally observed by the river-banks in February; but later in the year it became abundant on the hill-tops, and early in May swarms were migrating up the Val-de-Lys, near Luchon, on the way to their mountain breeding-grounds. I believe I saw the Rock-Pipit (*A. obscurus*) on the rocks by St. Jean-de-Luz.

48. *LANIUS MERIDIONALIS*, Temm.

There is a genuine specimen of the Southern Grey Shrike, shot on the 10th of February, in the Bayonne Museum, but it is, of course, a very rare straggler.

Lanius excubitor had not arrived before my departure; at least I did not see it.

49. *LANIUS POMERANUS*, Sparrm.

The first Woodchat-Shrike was observed in Navarre on the 11th of April; later it is exceedingly common.

50. *MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA*, Linn.

The Pied Flycatcher was obtained on migration in the woods near St. Jean-de-Luz on the 17th of April.

51. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*, Linn.

The first Swallow was seen at St. Jean-de-Luz on the 25th of March.

52. *CHELIDON URBICA* (Linn.).

There is a single specimen of the House-Martin in the

Bayonne Museum ; but this species is extremely rare in the Western Pyrenees, although the overhanging eaves of the Basque and Navarrese houses appear very suitable for its nests. A sharp look-out was kept for the latter, but no trace of them was noticed as far east as the Val d'Aspe. The House-Martin breeds abundantly at St. Sauveur and near Luchon. In the gorges of the Eastern Pyrenees I observed it as late as the 29th October, hawking for insects, at the same time and place as the next species, but always lower down, close to the mountain-torrents.

53. *COTILE RUPESTRIS* (Scop.).

The Crag-Martin is resident throughout the year, from the Pas de Roland, near Cambo, to the gorges of the Eastern Pyrenees.

54. *CARDUELIS ELEGANS*, Steph.

The Goldfinch is generally distributed ; on the Spanish slope from Roncesvalles to Pamplona it was more abundant in spring than any other species of bird.

55. *CRYSOMITRIS SPINUS* (Linn.).

The Siskin was tolerably common throughout the winter, especially on the Spanish side ; and by the 2nd of April numbers were passing northwards.

56. *SERINUS HORTULANUS*, Koch.

I was rather surprised to hear the familiar note of the Serin Finch on the trees just outside Argelès on the 18th of March ; but the position of that place is a very sheltered one. I saw the birds daily, and with the aid of a binocular there could be no mistake in the identification of the species.

57. *LIGURINUS CHLORIS* (Linn.).

The Greenfinch is common and resident.

58. *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (Linn.).

59. *PASSER MONTANUS* (Linn.).

The House-Sparrow is pretty generally distributed in the neighbourhood of towns and villages. The Tree-Sparrow, although more local, is also common, and during the winter and early spring a good many were to be observed in the

trees and small gardens of St. Jean-de-Luz. I have seen them obtaining food from the droppings in the streets, just like the House-Sparrow.

60. *MONTIFRINGILLA NIVALIS* (Linn.).

The Snow-Finch seldom comes down into the valleys. I saw it below the Somport (5000 feet) on a splendid day at the end of February, when its appearance there was considered to betoken a spell of bad weather, and two days later the higher villages were snowed-up.

61. *FRINGILLA CÆLEBS*, Linn.

62. *FRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA*, Linn.

The Chaffinch is common and resident.

The Brambling occurs in winter and on migration, commencing its passage northwards as early as February; but Philippe notes that a few are found in summer, so that it probably breeds sparingly in the higher forests.

63. *LINOTA CANNABINA* (Linn.).

64. *LINOTA RUFESCENS* (Vieill.).

65. *LINOTA FLAVIROSTRIS* (Linn.).

The Linnet is tolerably common in winter, and partially resident. I have seen the Lesser Redpole and the Twite, freshly captured, in the cages of the Basque bird-catchers in March.

66. *PYRRHULA EUROPEA*, Vieill.

The Bullfinch is not uncommon in the Basque Provinces and in Navarre. I saw and obtained it several times in February and March.

67. *LOXIA CURVIROSTRA*, Linn.

I observed the Crossbill in the elevated forests of Iraty in April, so that it was, no doubt, breeding.

68. *EMBERIZA MILIARIA*, Linn.

The Common Bunting was observed in the Lower Pyrenees in March.

69. *EMBERIZA CITRINELLA*, Linn.

70. *EMBERIZA CIRCUS*, Linn.

The Yellow Bunting was noticed in the Basque Provinces

throughout the winter, and was abundant in the Val d'Aspe in March, also in the Eastern Pyrenees in November. The Cirl Bunting was common about St. Jean-de-Luz from December to April, and during a snow-storm on the 10th of March there were numbers in a small garden in front of the Hôtel de la Poste at St. Jean-de-Luz, and even on the paved street with the Sparrows.

71. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA*, Linn.

The Ortolan Bunting was identified at Argelès on the 23rd of March, when, after unusually warm weather, a sudden change took place, followed by snow; and very surprised and miserable the poor migrants seemed to be.

72. *EMBERIZA CIA*, Linn.

The Meadow-Bunting is resident in the Lower Pyrenees, and appears to be the most abundant of the genus.

73. *EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS*, Linn.

The Reed-Bunting appeared in small flocks about St. Jean-de-Luz on the 7th of February, some of the males being in the fullest breeding-plumage at that date.

74. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS*, Linn.

75. *ALAUDA ARBOREA*, Linn.

The Sky-Lark was observed in the Basque Provinces throughout the winter, and immense flights were observed passing northwards in March. The Wood-Lark was much rarer during the same month.

76. *ALAUDA CRISTATA*, Linn.

A few Crested Larks were seen strutting about the roads and paths near St. Jean-de-Luz from the 6th of February onwards, but this species did not appear to be numerous up to the time of my departure in April. In the Eastern Pyrenees it was common in November.

77. *MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA* (Linn.).

The Calandra Lark began to make its appearance at St. Jean-de-Luz in small numbers by the end of March; in Navarre it was seen earlier and was more abundant.

78. STURNUS VULGARIS, Linn.

The Starling was a common species.

79. PYRRHOCORAX GRACULUS (Linn.).

80. PYRRHOCORAX ALPINUS, Koch.

The Red-billed Chough was abundant on La Rhune towards Sare and in some parts of Navarre. In many parts of the Higher Pyrenees this species is very numerous; there are colonies just above Pierrefitte, and close to St. Sauveur. The Alpine Chough I never saw in the Basque Provinces, but in the Val d'Aspe and eastward it is very common. As a rule it inhabits higher ground than the Red-billed Chough, but by no means invariably, for both species frequent the wild gorges of Corsavi, under Canigou, in the Eastern Pyrenees.

The Nutcracker is undoubtedly found in the Pyrenees, but I have no personal acquaintance with it.

81. GARRULUS GLANDARIUS (Linn.).

The Jay is very common and resident in the wooded districts.

82. PICA RUSTICA (Scop.).

The Magpie swarms on the French side of the mountains, but on the Spanish side, even where the country appears equally suited to its habits, it is, I am happy to say, of rare occurrence. In some places along the Adour the nests are so close together that an uncritical traveller by rail or road might easily be deceived into the belief that he was looking at a somewhat straggling rookery.

In the Bayonne Museum there is a specimen of the Spanish Blue-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cooki*), said to have been shot within the French boundary; but M. Hirriart, the curator, shakes his head over it; and certainly the average range of this bird does not extend north of the Ebro valley.

The Jackdaw was not observed by me anywhere; I heard what I took to be its note more than once, but the birds were flying high, and were possibly Choughs.

83. *CORVUS CORONE*, Linn.

84. *CORVUS CORNIX*, Linn.

The Carrion-Crow was abundant in the Lower Pyrenees, and in the Val d'Aspe I saw it in considerable flocks. The Hooded Crow was tolerably common about St. Jean-de-Luz in winter; one individual was nearly black, with a dark-grey collar; another, on the same tree, was a very light example. I also saw the species in Navarre.

85. *CORVUS FRUGILEGUS*, Linn.

The Rook was plentiful in winter on the French side. In Navarre, where comparatively little rain had fallen for fifteen months, the soil was too hard for it in the spring of 1882.

86. *CORVUS CORAX*, Linn.

The Raven is generally distributed, and its hoarse guttural bark was a familiar sound on my excursions. One morning a man was engaged just outside St. Jean-de-Luz in burying a horse which had died in the night, and a pair of Ravens were circling round, expressing their sentiments in the plainest manner upon such a waste of good food.

87. *DENDROCOPUS MAJOR*, Linn.

The Great Spotted Woodpecker was twice observed in the Basque Provinces.

The Black Woodpecker (*Picus martius*) undoubtedly inhabits the Pyrenees and the Cantabrian range, but I had not the good fortune to meet with it.

88. *GECCINUS VIRIDIS* (Linn.).

The Green Woodpecker is common; nowhere more so than at Pau.

89. *LYNX TORQUILLA*, Linn.

The Wryneck was very noisy on the 26th of March in the chestnut-woods outside Argelès.

90. *ALCEDO ISPIDA*, Linn.

The Kingfisher was frequently seen along the rivers and mountain-streams.

91. *UPUPE EPOPS*, Linn.

The first Hoopoe of the year was observed walking along the road near the Bidassoa on the 23rd of March, and several were seen later.

92. *CUCULUS CANORUS*, Linn.

The Cuckoo was first heard at St. Jean-de-Luz on the 15th of April, and later it was both seen and heard.

93. *ASIO ACCIPITRINUS* (Pall.).

I saw a freshly killed specimen of the Short-eared Owl at Bagnères-de-Bigorre on the 27th of March, 1882. The Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) also occurs, but I did not happen to see it; Companyó says it is excellent eating.

94. *SYRNIUM ALUCO* (Linn.).

I heard the Tawny Owl hooting loudly near Roncesvalles in Navarre.

95. *SCOPS GIU* (Scop.).

The Scops Owl was not noticed in the Western Pyrenees during my spring visits; but at the foot of the Eastern Pyrenees, where the olive tree is abundant, it appears to be resident—at least it was there in November 1876. Lacroix says that it lays its eggs in old nests of the Magpie.

96. *BUBO IGNAVUS*, Forst.

The Eagle Owl is of general distribution. I was shown the place where a pair bred every year in a narrow gorge just above the Hôtel Poujade at Amélie-les-Bains. This bird begins to nest very early, and Companyó says that he has found the young nearly full-fledged in March; he adds that the flesh of this bird is white, tender, and well flavoured. It is always difficult to induce peasants to show you the nest, as it is generally on an easily accessible ledge which they visit daily for the sake of the rabbits, hares, and partridges brought there by the old birds. I once lunched off a rabbit which I took from the Eagle-Owl's table.

97. *ATHENE NOCTUA* (Retz.).

The Little Owl is tolerably common and resident; I heard its note several times near St. Jean-de-Luz in March.

Tengmalm's Owl (*Nyctala tengmalmi*) undoubtedly occurs in the upper fir-woods ; and there is a specimen of the Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*) in the Museum at Perpignan, said to have been obtained in the Eastern Pyrenees.

98. STRIX FLAMMEA, Linn.

The Barn-Owl is of general distribution.

99. GYPS FULVUS (Gmel.).

The Griffon Vulture is common in the Western Pyrenees, especially on the Spanish side. I believe that about half a dozen pairs nest just within the French frontier, in the cliffs of La Rhune on the side looking to Spain ; and there is a larger colony in the Hucel-haya or Trois Couronnes, a very conspicuous mountain on the Spanish side of the Bidassoa. With the above exception I am not aware of any breeding-place on the French side in the Western or Central Pyrenees ; in fact the rocks do not appear suitable—with the exception, perhaps, of those above Les Aldudes near the Val de Bastan, where the frontier-ridge runs north and south instead of east and west. I saw over seventy Griffons at once over that village ; and near Mendive I watched these birds with a binocular on some mountain-pastures from which we were separated by a deep gorge. On alighting, the Griffons might be seen stalking leisurely among the sheep, or perched upon a rock, taking a great interest, for obvious reasons, in the ewes which were lambing. On the Spanish side its breeding-places are numerous. Lacroix says that the eggs are laid towards the end of February ; but we found none by the 8th of March, even in the mild climate of the Western Pyrenees. Philippe, who seems to have experimented on every thing, says “ on le mange à l'étouffé, après l'avoir fait mariner cinq à six jours, pour lui faire perdre son odeur musquée.”

100. VULTUR MONACHUS, Linn.

The Cinereous Vulture is certainly of rare occurrence in the Western Pyrenees, but in the Central and Eastern districts it sometimes comes over from the Spanish side, where it is abundant. Philippe says that it nests in the rocks of the Clot de Mountarioux, and Lacroix asserts that it does so

towards the end of January—statements wholly at variance with what we know of its habits in Spain, where it makes its nests in tall trees and does not lay until March or April.

101. *NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS* (Linn.).

The Egyptian Vulture was observed on the Trois Couronnes on the 8th of March, in pairs, and the species is generally distributed throughout the Pyrenees from spring to autumn. As I did not see it in the Eastern Pyrenees by the end of October, it had probably left by that time.

It may prevent error if I state here that, in Provence, one of the local names for this Vulture is “Pélacan,” which has (not unnaturally) been rendered into English as “Pelican” in Murray’s ‘Guide to France.’

102. *GYPÆTUS BARBATUS* (Linn.).

The Bearded Vulture was observed by me on every excursion which I made in the mountains, from La Rhune to Navarre, and a pair of the birds is to be found in nearly every stack of rocks suitable for their nests. In the two stupendous pillars of limestone known as “Las Dos Hermanas” at Yrurzun they have bred from time immemorial, and, excepting by Loche, of Algerian renown, they have never been disturbed there. Going over the Pass of Lecumberri in Navarre, I watched a pair indulging in amorous play in the air on the 24th of February, and I am somewhat sceptical as to the statements of several French writers as to its breeding in January in the Pyrenees. That it does so in the south of Spain I am well aware, eggs taken at Loja on the 2nd of February having proved to be incubated. In the Eastern Pyrenees the Bearded Vulture has become very rare of late years.

103. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS* (Linn.).

The Marsh-Harrier was observed on all the open valleys of the lower districts of the Pyrenees.

104. *CIRCUS CYANEUS* (Linn.).

The Hen-Harrier was frequently seen quartering the ground by the rivers and on the sides of the mountains up to

3000 feet, from the 8th of March onwards. Montagu's Harrier (*C. cineraceus*) is in every Museum, but I did not meet with it alive.

105. *BUTEO VULGARIS*, Leach.

The Common Buzzard appears to be resident everywhere up to an elevation of about 4000 feet.

At St. Jean-de-Luz I saw a bird come across from Spain, alighting as if wearied, which I believe to have been a Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*); but although I followed it up for some time, it would not allow me to get within shot.

106. *AQUILA PENNATA* (Gmel.).

I saw the Booted Eagle and heard its familiar scream several times in the woods on the Spanish side near Roncesvalles in February, and again in April; and it nests in the forests on both sides of the Pyrenees. Its breeding-range is now well known to extend as far north as Brittany; but it will be a surprise to many, as it was to me, to learn that young birds taken from the nest in Normandy are in the Museum at Elbœuf.

107. *AQUILA CLANGA*, Pall.

The Spotted Eagle is tolerably common throughout the wooded mountains; in Navarre I had several opportunities of observing it, but as I did not carry a gun in Spain, I could not obtain specimens.

108. *AQUILA ADALBERTI*, L. Brehm.

The young of the Spanish Imperial Eagle occasionally crosses the Pyrenees into France. I have examined one of these, shot by Philippe himself near Bagnères-de-Bigorre, now in the collection of the Rev. W. Lawson, of Lynton; and there is another in the Museum at Nîmes obtained by Crespon.

109. *AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS* (Linn.).

The Golden Eagle is very rare on the French side (there is, in fact, next to no game for it to subsist upon); and in the Eastern Pyrenees, where the inhabitants are far more enter-

prising than elsewhere, this bird is destroyed as much as possible for the sake of the reward—the bird being disembowelled, rudely stuffed, and hawked about from farm to farm. I saw this being done near Vernet. On the Spanish side, where there is plenty of ground-game, it is not uncommon.

110. *HALIAETUS ALBICILLA* (Linn.).

Immature Sea-Eagles were several times observed over the bay of St. Jean-de-Luz. At San Sebastian one was circling round the citadel on Monte Orgullo, evidently fearless of molestation, and on the look out for scraps and offal from the garrison.

111. *CIRCAETUS GALLICUS* (Gmel.).

The Short-toed Eagle was recognized on several occasions in the lower woods on both sides of the frontier.

112. *NISAETUS FASCIATUS* (Vieill.).

The long-legged Bonelli's Eagle was only identified on two occasions near St. Jean-de-Luz. In the Eastern Pyrenees, at the foot of which there is a long line of *étangs* frequented by water-fowl, it is not uncommon; and I saw three clutches of eggs still unblown, taken not far across the frontier, in Catalonia.

113. *ACCIPITER NISUS* (Linn.).

The Sparrow-Hawk is common and resident.

114. *MILVUS ICTINUS*, Savigny.

The Red Kite is the most conspicuous bird of prey about St. Jean-de-Luz, and is of general distribution.

115. *MILVUS MIGRANS* (Bodd.).

The Black Kite was noticed on the 15th of March, after which it might be seen at any time circling over the streets of Bayonne, and swooping down upon the floating garbage on the Nive and the Adour. It remains till October.

116. *PERNIS APIVORUS* (Linn.).

The Honey-Buzzard is abundant on migration, the spring passage being between the 10th and 15th of May; I have recently seen eggs taken in the forests on the French side.

117. *FALCO CANDICANS*, Gmel.

Two examples of the Greenland Falcon have been obtained near St. Jean-de-Luz; and Philippe records the occurrence of two birds on the 22nd of September, 1832, and one on the 25th of October, 1836, which were either this species or the Iceland Falcon.

118. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*, Tunstall.

The Peregrine Falcon was seen on several occasions. On the 10th of March, 1882, one was very noisy at its nesting-place on La Rhune, but no eggs had then been laid.

119. *FALCO ÆSALON*, Tunstall.

The Merlin was observed on several occasions during the winter and spring.

120. *FALCO TINNUNCULUS*, Linn.

The Kestrel is common and generally distributed.

Philippe says that the Lesser Kestrel (*F. cenchris*) nests annually in the ruins of the Château of Mauvezin, near l'Escaladieu; but it would be interesting to have this confirmed by any ornithologist who happens to be at Bagnères-de-Bigorre in the latter part of May.

121. *PANDION HALIAETUS* (Linn.).

I observed the Osprey fishing in the Bay of St. Jean-de-Luz on two occasions.

122. *PHALACROCORAX CARBO* (Linn.).

This species is common along the coast, at least as far as Biarritz, where there is said to be only *one* historical example, known to visitors as *the* Cormorant.

123. *SULA BASSANA* (Linn.).

The Gannet was frequently observed over the Bay in winter.

124. *CICONIA ALBA*, Bechst.

Two Storks were observed passing over St. Jean-de-Luz northwards on the 6th of March. I have seen this species near the city of Leon in Spain, nearly a week earlier, although the weather was very cold at that time, and the passes into the Asturias were completely blocked by snow.

125. *ANAS BOSCAS*, Linn.

126. *QUERQUEDULA CRECCA* (Linn.).

127. *MARECA PENELOPE* (Linn.).

128. *SPATULA CLYPEATA* (Linn.).

The Wild Duck, Teal, Wigeon, and Shoveller were the only species of Duck identified; but I saw some birds, which from their light appearance were probably Garganey Teal, on the Lac de Lourdes.

129. *MERGUS SERRATOR*, Linn.

The Red-breasted Merganser was seen and shot in the Bay of St. Jean-de-Luz in the winter.

Many other species of water-fowl frequented the mouth of the Bidassoa, but their wildness, owing to constant persecution, rendered their pursuit unprofitable.

130. *COLUMBA PALUMBUS*, Linn.

The Ring-Dove began to appear on migration on the 1st of February, 1883, in small numbers, and on the 12th there was a large passage, followed by many others. In August and September large numbers are taken in nets stretched across well-known passes in the mountains, the nearest to St. Jean-de-Luz being between Sare and Echalar. These places are called "pantières" or "palombières," and there are nearly a dozen of them between Sare and Luchon. On the spring migration the nets are not worked.

131. *COLUMBA ŒNAS*, Linn.

The Stock-Dove occurred on passage from the 14th of March onwards, but in small numbers.

132. *SYRRHAPTES PARADOXUS* (Pall.).

I have had the pleasure of discovering three examples of Pallas's Sand-Grouse in the Pyrenees. The earliest, disguised under the name of *Pterocles arenarius*, is in the Museum of Perpignan, and was obtained on the 18th of October, 1859; the second, killed by Philippe near the Spanish frontier above Bigorre on the 27th of May, 1863, is in the College at Oloron; the third is in the Museum at Bayonne, and was obtained on the 23rd of June, 1863.

133. *CACCABIS RUFA* (Linn.).

The Red-legged Partridge is now very rare on the French side near St. Jean-de-Luz, and in the Eastern Pyrenees I have seen but few.

134. *PERDIX CINEREA*, Lath.

Our Grey Partridge is a very local species, frequenting the cultivated upland patches, and rarely moving far from the spot. When brought in for sale, three of them may generally be obtained for the price of a brace of Red-legs.

The Quail (*Coturnix communis*) is abundant on passage ; but I was not there during the time.

135. *LAGOPUS MUTUS*, Leach.

The Ptarmigan is by no means uncommon near the snow-line. The most western locality, so far as I know, is about the Pic d'Anie or Pic des Escaliers, in the higher part of the Department of the Basses-Pyrénées.

136. *BONASA BETULINA* (Scop.).

A Hazel-Grouse got up close to me in the woods of Roncesvalles. This species is now becoming scarce on the French side ; and I was unable to obtain any trustworthy information about it in Navarre or in Catalonia. Companyó asserts that it is plentiful as far south as the province of Valladolid in Spain.

137. *TETRAO UROGALLUS*, Linn.

The Capercaillie occurs in the forests of the entire range, but on the French side its numbers are rapidly decreasing ; I have only seen it near Luchon.

The Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) is said by Companyó to be tolerably abundant in the moderately elevated portions of the Eastern Pyrenees, where it is known to the Catalans by the name of "Cua furxude" or forked-tail. This species is certainly unknown in the western part of the Pyrenees as far as Luchon ; but considering the break of continuity in that range to the east of the Port de Venasque, and the connexion of the eastern portion with the Cevennes, it appears not improbable that Companyó's statement is correct, in spite of the fact that Lacroix says nothing about this Grouse.

138. *RALLUS AQUATICUS*, Linn.

139. *PORZANA MARUETTA* (Leach).

Both the Water-Rail and Spotted Crake were common and resident in suitable localities near St. Jean-de-Luz, where I shot several.

140. *CREX PRATENSIS*, Bechst.

The Land-Rail was obtained at St. Jean-de-Luz as early as the beginning of March.

141. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS* (Linn.).

The Moorhen is tolerably common and resident in the low grounds.

The Coot (*Fulica atra*) is abundant on the *étangs* at the foot of the Eastern Pyrenees; but that district does not come within the limits of the present paper.

142. *GRUS COMMUNIS*, Bechst.

The Cranes passed northwards towards the end of February; on the 10th of March, 1882, Mr. Seeböhm and I witnessed the passage of a Merlin, a Peregrine, eight Kites, and a Crane crossing the shoulder of La Rhune simultaneously; the latter was going full speed in a north-easterly direction.

143. *OTIS TARDA*, Linn.

144. *OTIS TETRAX*, Linn.

The Great Bustard is not uncommon on passage in the Lower Pyrenees, and I believe it still breeds in the Landes to the north of Bayonne; there are six specimens in the Museum. The Little Bustard is a regular migrant on its way to and from La Vendée, where it breeds in considerable numbers.

145. *ÆDICNEMUS SCOLOPAX* (Gmel.).

The Stone-Curlew, known in the Lower Pyrenees by the misleading name of *Poule de Carthage*, was fairly common about St. Jean-de-Luz in winter.

146. *CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS*, Linn.

A few Golden Plover came into the market at St. Jean-de-Luz in the winter, and a tolerable number passed over, but they were very wild.

147. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA* (Linn.).

148. *ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA* (Lath.).

Numbers of Ringed Plover were observed on the mud-flats of the Nivelle and on the sea-shore in March ; and on the 26th of that month I identified a single Kentish Plover feeding, with four of the preceding species and three Dunlins, and very unsuspicious.

149. *VANELLUS VULGARIS*, Bechst.

The Lapwing was common in December near St. Jean-de-Luz, but afterwards disappeared, returning about the 20th of February.

150. *HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS*, Linn.

An Oyster-catcher was shot out of a flight on the 10th of December, and on the sand-banks at the mouth of the Bidassoa it was not uncommon.

151. *PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS*, Linn.

On the 23rd of December, a very wet and squally day, I watched five Grey Phalaropes flitting up and down the last line of breakers, and occasionally resting on the water close to the shore at St. Jean-de-Luz. They were very tame, until driven away with stones by some boys.

152. *SCOLOPAX RUSTICULA*, Linn.

The Woodcock is fairly abundant about St. Jean-de-Luz in winter and on passage. During the severe weather between the 6th and 13th of March, 1883, many were brought into the market of St. Jean-de-Luz, and the price fell to 5 francs the couple. I saw one as late as the 30th of March.

153. *GALLINAGO MAJOR* (Gmel.).

154. *GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS* (Frenzel).

155. *GALLINAGO GALLINULA* (Linn.).

I have seen one freshly killed Double Snipe shot by the Nivelle. In winter both the Common and Jack Snipe were obtained, but they were not abundant.

156. *TRINGA ALPINA*, Linn.

Three Dunlins, two of them in breeding-plumage, were seen on the Bay of St. Jean-de-Luz on the 26th of March.

157. *MACHETES PUGNAX* (Linn.).

A Ruff was hanging up in the market at Pau on the 16th of March.

158. *TOTANUS HYPOLEUCUS* (Linn.).

The Common Sandpiper was observed on several occasions on the mountain-streams. Both the Wood- and the Green Sandpiper occur on passage, but Lacroix's statement that the latter breeds in the Pyrenees is probably incorrect; I have seen the eggs which he ascribes to this species, and they are those of the Common Sandpiper.

159. *TOTANUS CALIDRIS* (Linn.).160. *TOTANUS FUSCUS* (Linn.).

The Common Redshank was obtained at St. Jean-de-Luz on the 14th of March; and on the 16th of April a Spotted Redshank in its black breeding-plumage was seen, but unfortunately was not shot.

161. *LIMOSA ÆGOCEPHALA* (Linn.).

A good many Black-tailed Godwits were obtained on passage on the 3rd of March.

162. *NUMENIUS ARQUATA* (Linn.).

The Curlew is tolerably common in the lower districts in winter, and has been known to breed near Capvern, where, according to Philippe, a female was taken with two eggs (which he describes accurately), on the 10th of May, 1838.

163. *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS*, Linn.164. *LARUS MELANOCEPHALUS*, Natt.

Our Brown-headed Gull was common on the Nivelle and in the Bay of St. Jean-de-Luz during the winter and up to the beginning of March 1882. Then, first a few and afterwards about a score of the Adriatic Black-headed Gulls made their appearance on the bay, and by the 6th of March they had completely replaced the former species. They frequented the mouth of the harbour, close by the custom-house, where it was impossible to shoot them, although I wanted a specimen badly for the purpose of convincing a sceptic; but nothing could be easier than their identification, the pure

white primaries of the adults being very apparent as they soared over one's head. Some of the mature birds had nearly full black heads by the 7th of March, when I left for that year. During the winter of 1882-83 I saw none; but I believe this species breeds on some of the lakes, of which there is a chain lying parallel to the sea, between Bayonne and the mouth of the Gironde, and it is known to be a visitor to Bordeaux.

165. *LARUS MINUTUS*, Pall.

On the 7th of March, 1882, I watched a flock of Little Gulls, numbering from forty-eight to fifty, in the Bay of St. Jean-de-Luz; about thirty-six of them had already full black heads.

166. *LARUS CACHINNANS*, Pall.

The Yellow-legged Herring-Gull was the only member of the grey-mantled group identified at St. Jean-de-Luz. An adult male which I shot on the 12th of January had bright lemon-coloured legs and feet; there were no grey mottlings about the head and neck, but only a few dark hair-streaks in front of the eye.

167. *LARUS MARINUS*, Linn.

168. *LARUS FUSCUS*.

The Great Black-backed Gull was frequently observed on the coast. On the 1st of March I watched a long flight of at least 200 going steadily out to sea, S.W. direction. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was also identified.

The Glaucous Gull (*Larus glaucus*) has been shot near Hendaye.

169. *RISSA TRIDACTYLA* (Linn.).

The Kittiwake occasionally came into the bay in severe weather.

170. *STERCORARIUS CATARRHACTES* (Linn.).

A Great Skua shot at l'Anglet last autumn is in the Bayonne Museum.

171. *STERCORARIUS POMATORHINUS* (Temm.).

172. *STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS*, Gmel.

I picked up an example of the former at St. Jean-de-Luz

after heavy weather, and examined a young Arctic Skua that had recently been shot at Hendaye.

173. *PROCELLARIA PELAGICA*, Linn.

174. *CYMOCHOREA LEUCORRHOEA*, Vieill.

The Storm-Petrel was observed during the winter gales. I saw a Fork-tailed Petrel which had recently been obtained at St. Jean-de-Luz ; and Philippe records two found dead on the 29th October, after heavy weather, far inland at Campan and Pierrefitte.

175. *PUFFINUS KUHLI* (Boie).

It is the Mediterranean Shearwater, and not *P. major* of the North Atlantic, which has been obtained on the coast between St. Jean-de-Luz and Bayonne.

176. *ALCA TORDA*, Linn.

177. *URIA TROILE* (Linn.).

Both the Razorbill and Guillemot were common in the bay in January.

178. *COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*, Linn.

The Red-throated Diver was identified in the bay, and I believe I saw some individuals of the larger species.

This is a poor list compared with that of M. Lacroix, which contains nearly 350 species ; but if his example were followed, and the birds of the coast of the Mediterranean as far as Marseilles, with all the Warblers and Waders of the Camargue, were included, it would be easy to add another fifty "on my personal knowledge." But the latter would scarcely be Birds of the Pyrenees, and I have already strained a point in regard to the species found on the west coast.

XL.—Notes on the Eighth Volume of the ‘Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum.’ By H. B. TRISTRAM, D.D., F.R.S.

No work more complete and comprehensive in its design than the British Museum Catalogue has ever appeared on